

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Upon entry of the amendment above, claims 1, 3-16, and 18-24 will be pending, claims 1, 18, 19, 21, and 22 being independent.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1, 3-16, and 18-21 are allowed.

Claim 24 is allowable but is objected to for depending upon a rejected claim.

Claims 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by REUSS et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,250,651).

Summary of Telephone Interview with Examiner on July 6, 2005

During a telephone conversation with the Examiner on July 6, 2005, it was agreed that if the end of independent claim 22 were amended in the following manner, the rejection would be withdrawn and the rejected claims would be allowed: "said one of said front and rear linkages being unrestrained neither by said base nor by either of said first and second flanges in said boot removal/insertion position."

Response to the Office Action

In the amendment above, Applicants have amended the end of independent claim 22 in the following manner: "said one of said front and rear linkages being unrestrained neither by said base nor by either of said first and second flanges in said boot removal/insertion position."

Consistent with the telephone discussion with the Examiner, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 22 and 23 is kindly requested, together with the allowance of the instant application.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION


The single ground of rejection advanced in the Office action has been addressed

and overcome. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the amendment.

A check is enclosed for payment of a fee for an extension of time for two months. No additional fee is believed to be due at this time. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee required for acceptance of this reply as timely and complete to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone or fax number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
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